

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1692

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MOSCOW 12491

1. SOVIET PRESS AUGUST 15 GIVES HEAVY ATTENTION TO WASHINGTON
POLITICAL EVENTS. AUGUST 15 PRAVDA CARRIES SHORT TASS REPORTS
ON PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AND SECRETARY
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KISSINGER (NO MENTION IS MADE OF MESSAGE TRANSMITTED FROM

BREZHNEV), HOUSE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUITY IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION TRIMMING DEFENSE BUDGET (DESCRIBED AS DICTATED BY ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES).

2. LONGER SIGNED PIECES IN OTHER PAPERS APPROACH WASHINGTON SITUATION FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES. V. KOBYSH, WRITING IN AUGUST 14 IZVESTIYA, CALLS ATTENTION TO EXCHANGE OF FRIENDLY MESSAGES BETWEEN FORD AND PODGORNYY, FORD MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV, FORD'S PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET CHARGE VORONTSOV TWO HOURS AFTER SWEARING-IN, AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF DETENTE, PLUS SIGNIFICANCE ASSIGNED THESE EVENTS BY AMERICAN MEDIA. KOBYSH GOES ON TO ARGUE THAT, DESPITE DESIRE BY UNNAMED PERSONS TO USE PRESENT SITUATION TO WEAKEN U.S. DETENTE POLICY, SUPPORTERS OF DETENTE ARE IN HEAVY MAJORITY AMONG POPULATION AND HAVE CLEAR UPPER HAND.

3. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA AUGUST 15 PRINTS ARTICLE ON CHANGE OF PRESIDENTS BY TASS DIRECTOR ZAMYATIN WHICH REVIEWS RECENT WASHINGTON EVENTS IN CONTEXT OF IMPROVED SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS (WHICH, ACCORDING TO ZAMYATIN, ARE THE RESULT OF THREE SUMMIT MEETINGS). HE NOTES THAT PRESIDENT'S WORDS DIRECTED TO USSR IN AUGUST 13 SPEECH (QUOTED IN ENTIRETY) WERE RECEIVED IN THIS COUNTRY WITH SATISFACTION AND BY CONGRESS WITH PROLONGED APPLAUSE.

4. AUGUST 15 TRUD CONTAINS LONG DIATRIBE BY B. STOLPOVSKIY AGAINST GEORGE MEANY, ATTACKING HIM ALONG FAMILIAR LINES (THOUGH IN ESPECIALLY SHARP TERMS) AS ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADER AND WOULD-BE SABOTEUR OF IMPROVED U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS. STOLPOVSKIY CLAIMS THAT "AS IS KNOWN," MEANY'S PLANS FOR REFLECTING DETENTE POLICY WERE CONNECTED WITH RESIGNATION OF NIXON, BUT NOTES THAT NEW PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED DEFINITELY (SO VSEY OPREDELENNOST'YU) THAT PREVIOUS POLICY WILL CONTINUE.
STOESSEL

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